It is possible that the Pied Kingfishers were being aggressive towards the larger species, rather than practising piracy. Other kingfishers have been observed chasing predators or other birds. For example, P. W. Greig-Smith (*in* Cramp 1985) noted Grey-headed Kingfishers *Halcyon leucocephala* driving off various species of bird by chasing and swooping attacks. The Eurasian Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* may harass and drive off passerines, especially if these are 'trespassing' on favourite perches (Boag 1982), whilst Pied Kingfishers have been recorded mobbing Eurasian Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* (H-U. Reyer, *in* Cramp 1985) and rushing out at other predators (Douthwaite 1978). However, the attacks by Pied Kingfishers on the Giant Kingfisher at Lake Naivasha were only observed when the larger species actually caught prey. At other times it was ignored by the Pied Kingfishers. The interactions are therefore believed to be an example of kleptoparasitism in kingfishers. It is of interest that Pearce (1983) recorded the reverse situation—an African Giant Kingfisher kleptoparasitizing a Pied Kingfisher. In that instance, on three occasions when the latter species flew back to its perch with a fish, a Giant Kingfisher flew across from a nearby fence post along a stream and snatched the fish from it. Perhaps at Naivasha the Pied Kingfishers, by acting together, were able to steal food from the Giant Kingfisher.

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Dr Stephanie J. Tyler, Yewtree Cottage, Lone Lane, Penault, Gwent NP5 4AJ, Wales

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On the racial status of the White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis* in coastal Tanzania

Fry *et al.* (1988) follow Britton (1980) in including the Pugu Hills (6°46S, 39°13E) within the range of the northern race of the White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis kilimensis*, thus extending the range some 205 km south from the East Usambara mountains. The record forming the basis of these statements is from Harvey & Howell (1987) who stated "vagrant, recorded only January 1973 in forests (WGH & R. Stjernstedt)." but Harvey & Howell gave no indication of the race referred to.

Ten years of research in the Pugu Hills since 1981 have not added a single record of the species (pers. obs.). Recent studies in four other coastal forests between Pugu and

East Usambara have also failed to locate this species (Burgess *et al.* 1990, Faldborg *et al.* 1990, and pers. obs.). The single sighting of Harvey and Stjernstedt was assumed to have been of a wanderer in January, although Brown & Britton (1980) give October to January as the peak breeding season for this race, and wandering then would, perhaps, be unusual.

On 17 February 1990 in riverine forest in the Matumbi Hills (8°18S, 39°12E), adjacent to the Kiwengoma Forest Reserve, several individuals of the race *leucogrammica* were observed in good light through a x30 telescope at a range of 60 m. The broad white streaking through the ear coverts and distinct white streaking on the crown were clearly visible. During the following two weeks there were several additional sightings in the area (S. J. Davies, pers. comm.). This record is some 200 km southwest of the Uluguru Mountains and Kimboza Forest Reserve, and 270 km west of Mahenge, the closest forest blocks from which the race *leucogrammica* is known (Stuart & Jensen 1985, Fry *et al.* 1989). There are, however, several extensive forests on high ground in the Selous Game Reserve midway between the Matumbi Hills and Mahenge which have not yet been surveyed ornithologically, and which might provide suitable habitat.

The Pugu Hills lie only 132 km west of Kimboza Forest Reserve on the eastern slopes of the Uluguru Mountains, with no high ground in between. There are, however, several riverine forest strips that would facilitate movement across the area. I suggest, therefore, that the old record from the Pugu Hills is more likely to have been *leucogrammica* than *kilimensis*.

White (1965) gives the range for *kilimensis* as extending throughout the coastal lowlands from Usambara to the Lurio River in northern Moçambique. The only known suitable forest habitat in southeastern Tanzania is the Litipo Forest Reserve and the Rondo Plateau. On the Rondo Plateau, the only barbet is the restricted race of the Green Barbet *S. olivacea woodwardi* and no barbets have been recorded at Litipo during recent visits (Holsten *et al.* 1991, Bagger *et al.* 1989, Faldborg *et al.* 1990). It seems likely that the gap shown in Fry *et al.* (1988) between the southern nominate race in north-central Moçambique and *leucogrammica* is a true one, although no work has been undertaken in northeastern Moçambique.

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N. E. Baker, Box 23404, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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First East African breeding record of Grant's Bluebill *Spermophaga poligenys* from the Semliki Forest Reserve, Uganda

During a recent field training and bird inventory programme for foresters and others organized by the Uganda Forest department in the Semliki (= Bwamba) Forest Reserve, observations were made on the nesting of a Grant's Bluebill *Spermophaga poliogenys*. This species is an uncommon forest bird restricted to the Ituri and nearby forests in central Africa. Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1955) and Brown & Britton (1980) could provide no breeding records but for Zaïre, Chapin (1954), although he never found a nest, mentions adults with enlarged gonads in January, February, May and September and noted young birds most numerous "toward November."

The present observations were made on 10–12 July 1992 during the dry season. On 10 July an incubating female was flushed from the nest and was watched perched nearby for several minutes affording good views. The female was found incubating on the next two days.

The nest was placed in the fork of a pole-sized *Cynometra alexandri* tree about 2 ½ m above the ground. The nest was comparatively large, 25 x 15 cm, and consisted of dried leaves and twigs on the outside with a lining of the grass *Panicum maximum* and blades of *Leptaspis* sp. The nest tree was only 5 m from a regularly used footpath, within a small (some 7 m across) patch of recently burned forest. The three white eggs averaged 18 x 13 mm.

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Christine Dranzoa and *Charles Otim*,
Makerere University, Box 10066, Kampala, Uganda

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